UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK INITIATIVE

GARFIELD PARK RITE TO WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative Neighborhood Network launched in 2022 in the West Garfield Park neighborhood. **Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative (GPRWC)** serves as the "community quarterback" for the Neighborhood Network with an overarching commitment to assuring community engagement and voice. GPRWC brings together coalition partners and community members to implement a collective vision of improving quality of life and wellness for residents who have faced systemic disinvestment in their communities.

Originally called Central Park, Garfield Park was largely settled by Irish and German railroad workers. The park was renamed in honor of President James A. Garfield, and the community grew in the early 1900s due in large part to the opening of the Garfield Park Conservatory, the Lake Street El station, and commercial development. However, the construction of the Eisenhower Expressway in the late 1950s displaced many residents. Following Dr. King's assassination and the subsequent anger and frustration with civic leaders and unjust systems, many businesses and residents left the neighborhood. In recent years, though, through the leadership of community residents and stakeholders, there is hope for a brighter future and GPRWC is working to make that future a reality.

LEAD AGENCY

Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative

COMMUNITY VISION

A vibrant and healthy Garfield Park where community members have agency and leadership to determine their destiny

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN GARFIELD PARK



NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK IN ACTION

In just a few years, Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative has launched numerous exciting initiatives toward its vision. Its many projects include:

- Developing the **Sankofa Wellness Village**, which will bring a health and wellness center, arts and advocacy education center, entrepreneurship hub, and community grocer to West Garfield Park, all with the input of community.
- Creating a comprehensive, resident-driven **Quality-of-Life Plan** that will form the basis for short-term and long-term projects to support a healthy Garfield Park.
- Creating a **business development plan** for the Madison and Pulaski Street Corridor, which will be implemented over time.
- Reclaiming **public places as safe spaces** through the development of the community plaza and skate park, Legler/Melody Campus, streetscape improvements, and a mural project.
- Providing **direct violence intervention and safety initiatives** through the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago and the City of Chicago's Community Safety Coordination Center.



> *The Sankofa ribbon cutting was a true labor of love and we are extremely proud of the hard work we put in to make it a success. We look forward to all the amazing community-enriching engagement Sankofa will provide to the residents of West Garfield Park and the Westside.*



DREA SLAUGHTER

Executive Director,
Garfield Park Rite
to Wellness Collaborative

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Garfield Park stronger. Direct your United Way gift to **"Neighborhood Networks"** to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks**

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